Dies Committee Orders Inquiry Of Winchell's Broadcasts

Subpoena Issued for All Recordings And Scripts of Last Two Years' Programs

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By the Associated Press.

Ordering an investigation of radio comment by Walter Winchell, the Dies Committee today issued a subpoena on the Blue Network to produce all scripts and recordings of the Winchell broadcasts for the last two years.

Robert E. Stripling, chief investigator for the committee, said the subpoena was issued to Mark Wood, New York, president of the network.

Chairman Dies currently is engaged in a controversy with Mr. Winchell over the latter's Sunday night broadcasts.

Mr. Dies recently charged in the House the newspaper columnist and radio commentator was engaged in a campaign to "smear" Congress, and cited the commentator's frequent references to Mr. Dies and other House members, notably Representatives Hoffman, Republican, of Michigan and Rankin, Democrat, of Mississippi.

Mr. Dies spoke to the House yesterday about Mr. Winchell, charging that he was disseminating "deliberately false statements" about the activities of the Dies Committee. He stated he had written Mr. Winchell and the Blue Network last December asking for a chance to prove this, by throwing open his files and allowing the radio chain and the commentator "to be the jury." He asserted he never got a reply.

Mr. Hoffman similarly assailed the Winchell broadcasts in the

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Winchell

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House, asserting that the Andrew Jergens Co. of Cincinanti paid Mr. Winchell $260,000 a year for his Sunday evening radio comment and stating:

"For his own good and for the good of the country, the Dies Committee should summon Jergens to explain why he permits, why he sponsors the continuance of the vicious attacks upon Congress, upon those in the armed forces, by Winchell.

"In view of Winchell's record, it is pertinent to inquire of Jergens whether Winchell has any hold upon him, which prevents him from taking steps to curb his spokesman, his employe, in the face of mounting public indignation."

At Miami Beach, Mr. Winchell demanded "why don't they subpoena Winchell?" when he was informed of the committee's action.

"I have repeatedly asked to be called before the committee, or any congressional group, to tell them things I am not permitted to say on the radio or in the newspapers.

"They don't want me. The committee has had access to my radio scripts for two years. The subpoena doesn't mean anything."

At Mr. Wood's office in New York there was no comment.

Rankin-Winchell Debate Urged by Legislature

JACKSON, Miss., Mar. 17 (AP).—A suggestion that Representative Rankin, Democrat, of Mississippi and Walter Winchell settle their long-standing differences in a joint debate got a couple of tentative approvals yesterday, but the tickets aren't on sale.

Submitted to the Mississippi Legislature in the form of a concurrent resolution by Senator John Culkin of Vicksburg, the idea was indorsed by the Senate, sitting as a committee, and placed on the calendar subject to call. The resolution proposed that the debate be staged at a joint session of the Mississippi House and Senate.

Mr. Winchell, at Miami Beach, Fla., countered with a proposal that the debate be staged in Madison Square Garden. The proceeds, he said, could be divided, "half for the poor people of Mississippi, both white and black, and half divided among the Red Cross, Army and Navy Relief Societies and other welfare organizations."

In Washington Representative Rankin refused to comment.